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Letter dated 22 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 November 1995, addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 22 November 1995 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 31 October 1995 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot Representative at the United Nations (A/50/715-S/1995/918) concerning alleged developments affecting the 1989 Unmanning Agreement.

In connection with the allegations of "new information" relating to constructions on the Yiğitler (Roccas) Bastion in the Turkish Cypriot sector of Nicosia, I wish to stress that these allegations are totally baseless and to recall that similar previous allegations on this subject have been conclusively refuted in your letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 25 July 1995, in which it is stated that the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) "is of the view that construction on Roccas Bastion to date, including the material used, does not indicate work carried out to normal military specifications, or to any evident military logic". Furthermore, as you are well aware, UNFICYP has had unhindered periodic access to the site and, in addition to monitoring the area on a round-the-clock basis from an observation post overlooking the area, UNFICYP has been allowed to conduct on-site inspections twice a week. No complaints have been received from UNFICYP during or after these inspections, and it appears that the persistence of the Greek Cypriot allegations on this matter, in spite of the above, is the result of their refusal to accept that the matter is closed, lest they be deprived of a means of generating political propaganda.

The construction on the Yiğitler (Roccas) Bastion has recently been completed and the children's park, together with its cafeteria, were inaugurated in a public ceremony on 15 November 1995, as part of the twelfth anniversary celebrations of the proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot side's continuing recriminations on this subject are designed to provide a smokescreen for the recent intensification of its own violations of the 1989 Unmanning Agreement on the above occasion. As is known, for three days running, from 7 to 9 November 1995, hundreds of Greek Cypriot students staged violent demonstrations along the borders, violating the buffer zone, including at this very location.

On 7 November, after having blocked all traffic at the Ledra Palace crossing point between the two sides in Nicosia, including the passage of UNFICYP personnel, several hundred demonstrators carried their provocations to the point of physically assaulting Turkish Cypriot workers by hurling stones at them at the children's park on the Yiğitler Bastion. As a result, several workers were injured and windows of the park's cafeteria were broken. One UNFICYP soldier was hurt, and the ambulance that came to pick him up was stoned.

On 8 November, the demonstrations became more violent with the participation of around 1,000 students, who assembled at the Ledra Palace checkpoint as of 9.30 a.m., blocking the gate to all traffic. They were led by

their teachers, indicating that the schools had been closed by an official decision of the Greek Cypriot administration just for this purpose.

One group of demonstrators advanced to the Yigitler Bastion, from where they threw stones, shouted insults and engaged in obscene behaviour against the Turkish Cypriot side. More windows of the cafeteria of the children's park were broken as a result of stone throwing. It is significant that the students were carrying Greek flags and shouting slogans in favour of ENOSIS (annexation of Cyprus to Greece).

Another group of demonstrators proceeded to the "Okullar Bölgesi" area in Nicosia, where they physically attacked and punched UNFICYP personnel who were trying to prevent them from violating the buffer zone. Several UNFICYP soldiers were injured. Penetrating the buffer zone, they came within 20 to 30 metres of the border of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Here they occupied an UNFICYP observation post, on which they raised the Greek flag. With the stones they threw at the Turkish Cypriot side from here, they broke the windows of many houses close to the border. A group of Greek Cypriot motorcyclists also took part in this demonstration.

The demonstrations continued the next day, on 3 November, on an even larger scale, involving 1,500 students, who concentrated their provocative activities at Okullar Bölgesi. Here, once again, the students violated the buffer zone, causing injury to UNFICYP personnel, and burned a Turkish flag they had brought with them.

Such manifestations of anti-Turkish hysteria, aggressive behaviour and repeated violations of the United Nations-controlled buffer zone as well as the Unmanning Agreement of 1989 only serve to heighten tension on the island, at a time when the atmosphere is already burdened with the Greek Cypriot side's continuing campaign of militarization and inflammatory rhetoric. I wish to stress, once more, that incitement of Greek Cypriot youth to such militant and irresponsible behaviour, far from serving the cause of peace and reconciliation on the island, is driving a further wedge between the two communities, whose repercussions are bound to be felt for generations to come.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus